

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02147 011744Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02

/095 W

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R 010700Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, ELAB, SP, FI

SUBJECT: ET TU FINLANDIA\*

BEGIN SUMMARY: FINNISH REACTION TO SPANISH EXECUTIONS  
HAS BEEN MORE DELIBERATE THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 02147 011744Z

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SEPT 29 "CONDEMNING" EXECUTIONS

WAS COUPLED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT GOF WOULD NOT WITHDRAW AMBASSADOR. NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, FOG DID VOLTE FACE AND RECALLED AMBASSADOR AFTER ALL. REASON APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REALIZATION THAT FINLAND WOULD BE LEFT ALMOST ALONE, AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IN NOT RECALLING AMBASSADOR, ALTHOUGH THIS NOT OFFICIALLY ADMITTED. FEELINGS AGAINST SPAIN ARE STRONG AND WIDELY EXPRESSED WITH LEFTIST PARTIES IN THE LEAD. A SMALL PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION WAS MOUNTED AT SPANISH EMBASSY SEPT 28, AND FINNISH TRANSPORT WORKERS ARE SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT OF SPANISH SHIPS AND AIRPLANES OCTOBER 1 AND 2. END SUMMARY.

1. FINLAND'S "CARETAKER" GOVERNMENT ISSUED STATEMENT SEPT 28 WHICH, " CONDEMNS THE RECENTLY CARRIED-OUT DEATH SENTENCES IN SPAIN WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH THE POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES PREVAILING IN THAT COUNTRY. THE FOG, WHICH DOES NOT APPROVE OF DEATH SENTENCES IN PRINCIPLE, APPEALS TO SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON MEASURES WHICH CAUSE RESTLESSNES THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND DISTRUB RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES."

2. ASKED BY PRESS WHY FINLAND WAS NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY RECALLING ITS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, FOREIGN MINISTER OLAVI J. MATTILA REPLIED THAT "FINLAND NEVER USES ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES". ACCORDING TO MATTILA MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DOESN'T IMPLY APPROVAL OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. "WE NEED OUR AMBASSADOR MUCH MORE IN MADRID THAN AT HOME", MATTILA SAID, ADDING THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY.

3. ON SETP 30, HOWEVER, MINISTRY REVERSED ITSELF AND IN ONE-SENTENCE ANNOUNCEMENT STATED BECAUSE OF "ADVANCE INFORMATION ABOUT NEW POLITICAL TRIALS WHICH BECAME PUBLIC TODAY FINLAND'S AMBASSADOR IN MADRID, HEIKKI HANNIKAINEN, IS ORDERED TO RETURN TO HELSINKI". MINISTRY EMPHASIZED TO PRESS THAT RECALL WAS "NOT POLITICAL". COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 HELSIN 02147 011744Z

EXACTLY WHY FINNS DID THIS VOLTE FACE BUT IS ALMOST CERTAIN IT WAS A PRESIDENTIAL DECISION. FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE INFLUENCED DECISION ARE WIDE COVERAGE GIVEN IN FINLAND TO SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME'S EMOTIONAL ATTACK ON SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND WORD THAT AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND ALSO RECALLING THEIR AMBASSADORS, LEAVING FINLAND WITHOUT ANY NEUTRAL COMPANY IN EUROPE.

4. EXECUTIONS HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN CONDEMNED BY COMMUNIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES BUT ALSO BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY COUNCIL. LEFTISTS ORGANIZED A SMALL, PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION ON SEPT 28 OUTSIDE SPANISH EMBASSY DEMANDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RECALL OF FINLAND'S AMBASSADOR. FINNISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN TWO-DAY PROTEST BOYCOTT OF SPANISH SHIPS AND AIRPLANES CALLED FOR OCTOBER 1 AND 2 BY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTWORKERS FEDERATION. COMMENT: BOYCOTT MAY CAUSE CONCESSION OF FINNAIR CHARTER FLIGHT TO MALAGA OCT 3 BUT WILL APPARENTLY NOT AFFECT STERLING AND SPANTAX CHARTERS WHICH ARE HANDLED BY NON ITF-AFFILIATED LABOR.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EXECUTIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 SEP 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ET TU FINLANDIA\* BEGIN SUMMARY: FINNISH REACTION TO SPANISH EXECUTIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, ELAB, SP, FI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006